

# THE WOODS

TM

JAMES TYNION IV • MICHAEL DIALYNAS



VOL. 9  
THE WAY HOME



# THE WOODS

TM

JAMES TYNION IV • MICHAEL DIALYNAS • JOSAN GONZALEZ

VOL. 9  
THE WAY HOME



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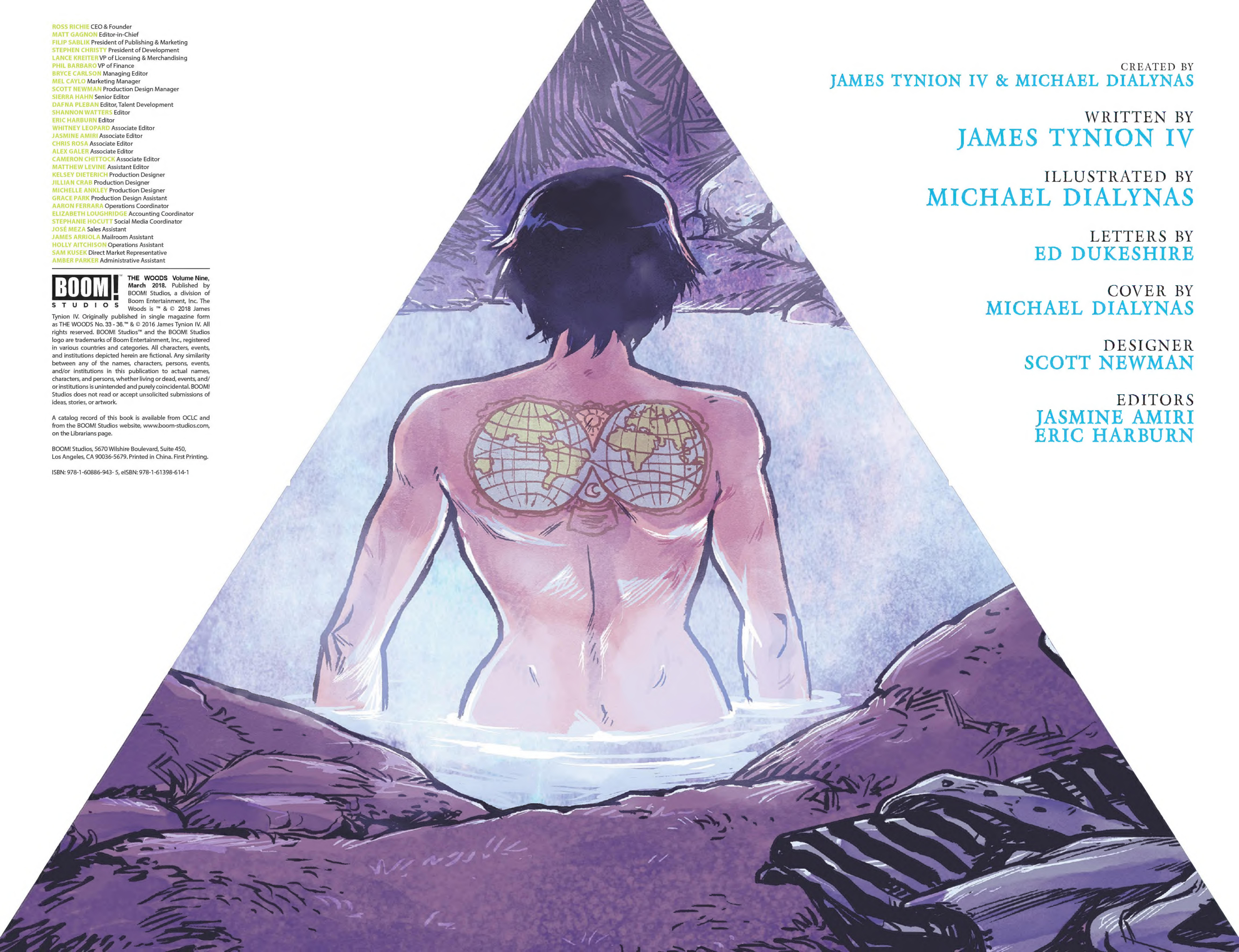
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CHAPTER

# THIRTY-THREE





YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW THE TRUTH, MY LITTLE FLOWER PETAL. OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW WHAT YOUR BONES HAVE BEEN TELLING YOU SINCE YOU COULD WALK.

THIS WORLD IS NOT YOUR HOME.



MANKIND DOES NOT BELONG HERE ANY MORE THAN A FISH BELONGS IN A TREE, OR A BIRD BELONGS IN THE OCEAN.

WE WERE TAKEN TO THIS WRETCHED FOREST AGAINST OUR WILL.



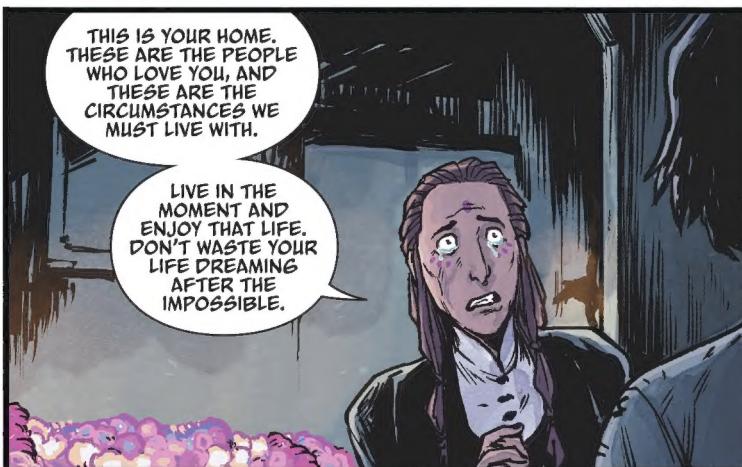
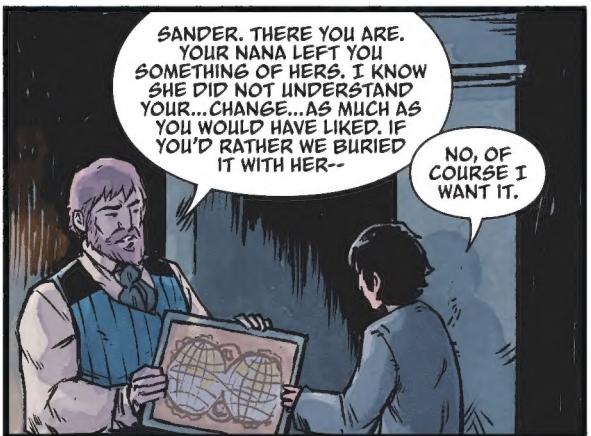
THESE WOODS ARE A PRISON, BUT THIS IS YOUR TRUE HOME.



I WANT YOU TO PROMISE ME YOU'LL NEVER FORGET THAT, CASSANDRA.



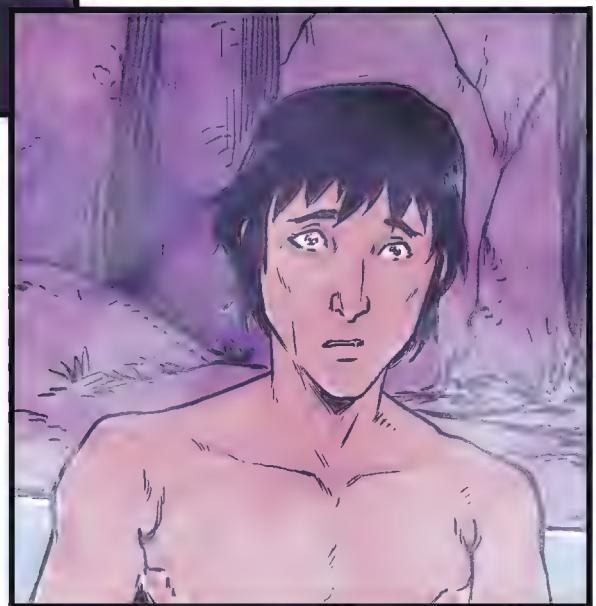
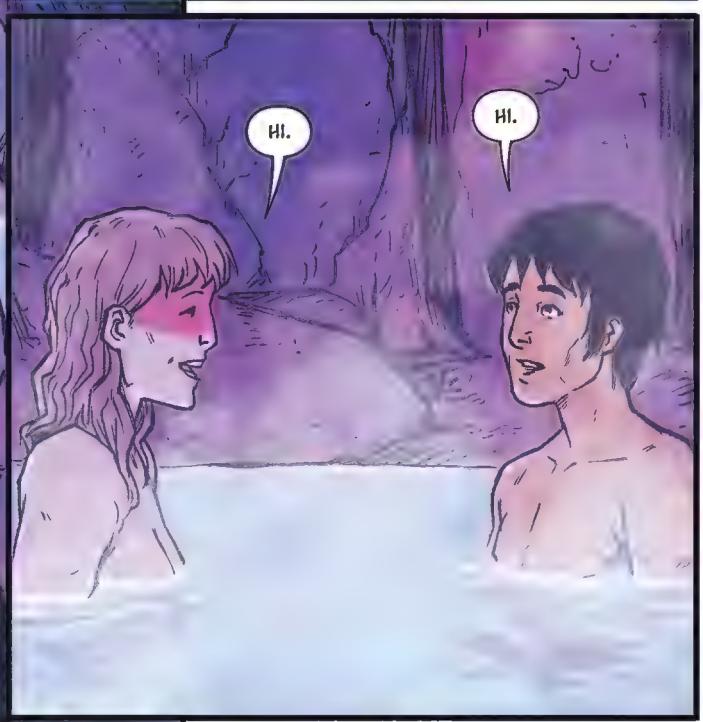
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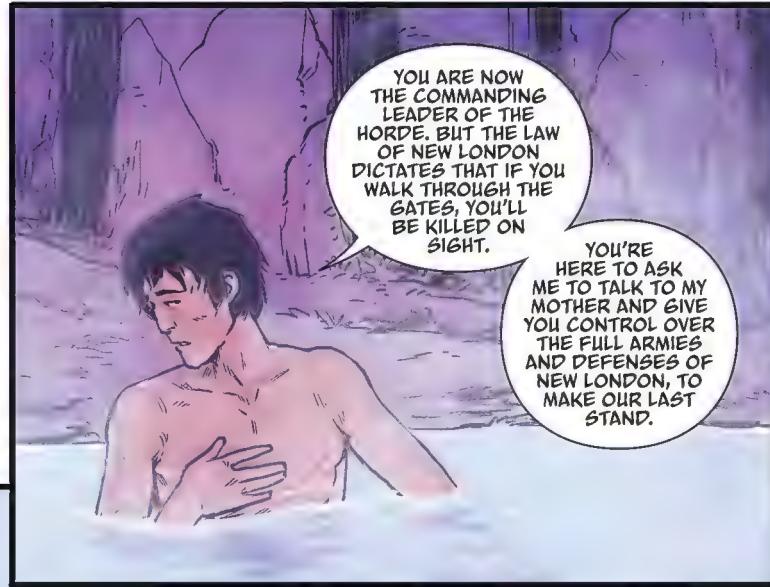


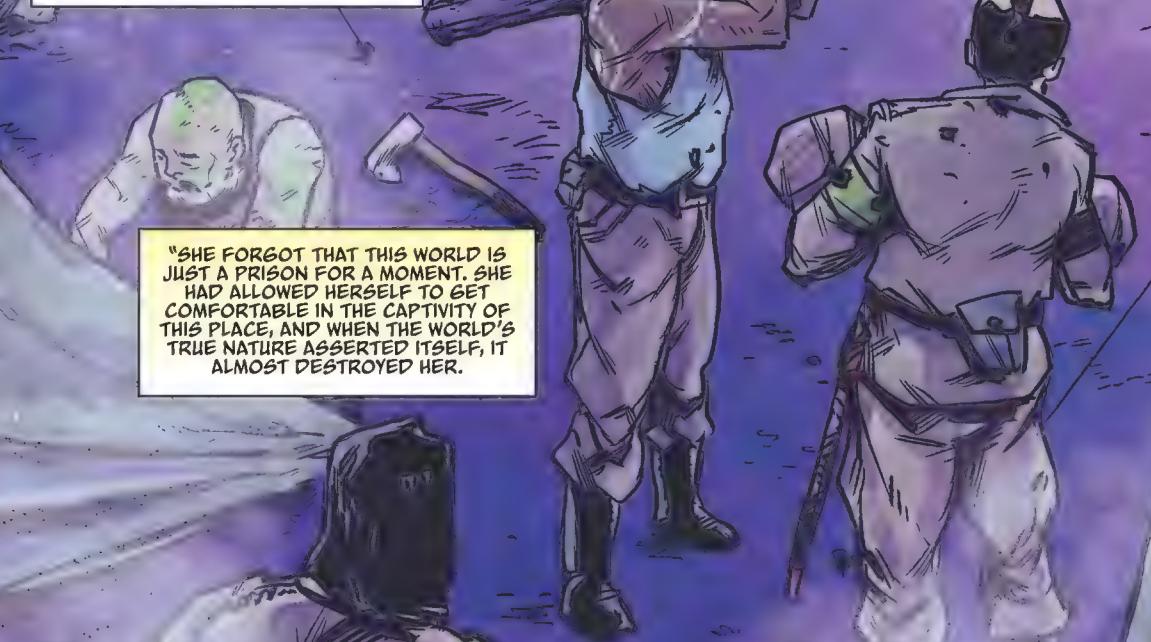
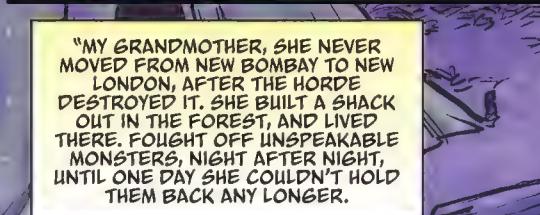


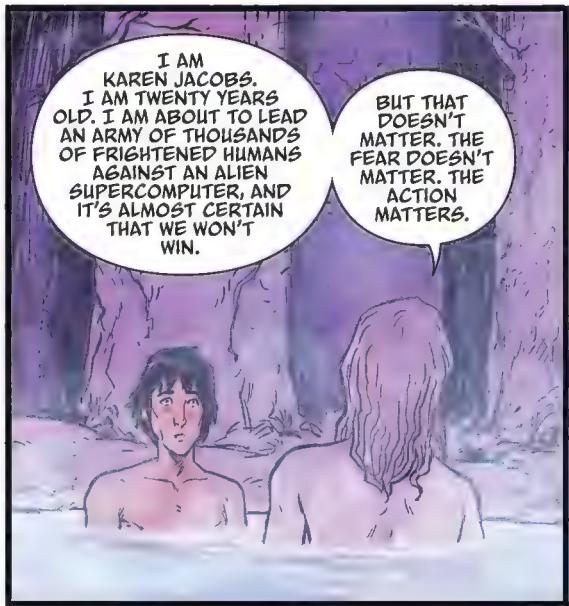


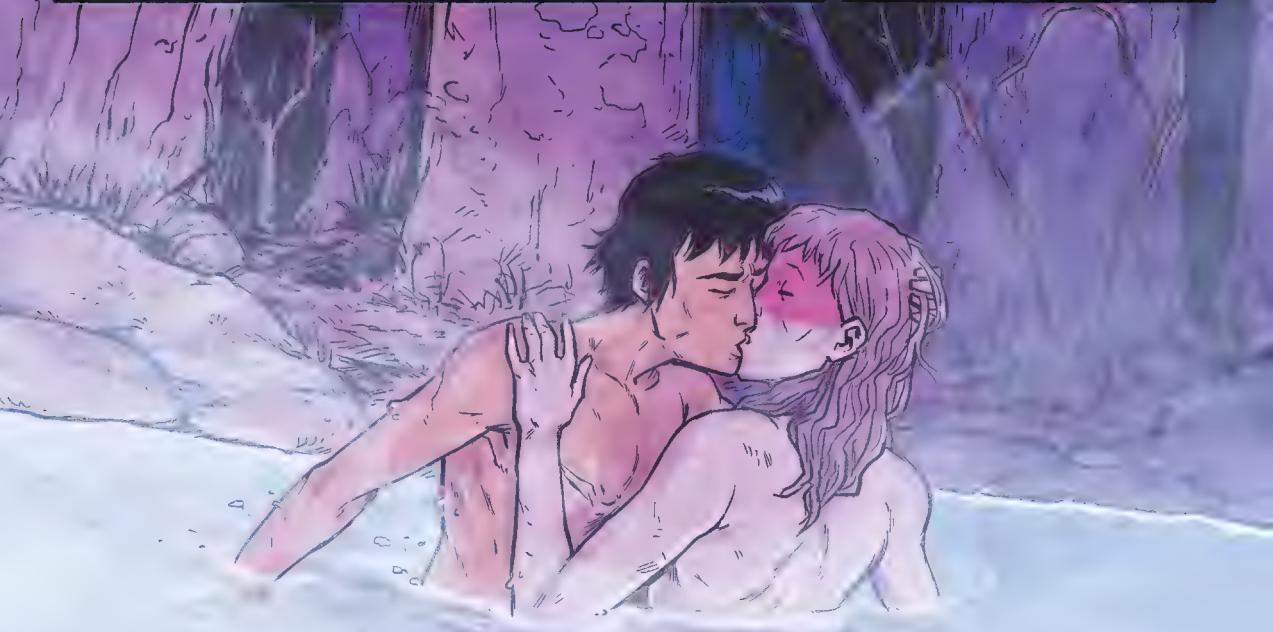
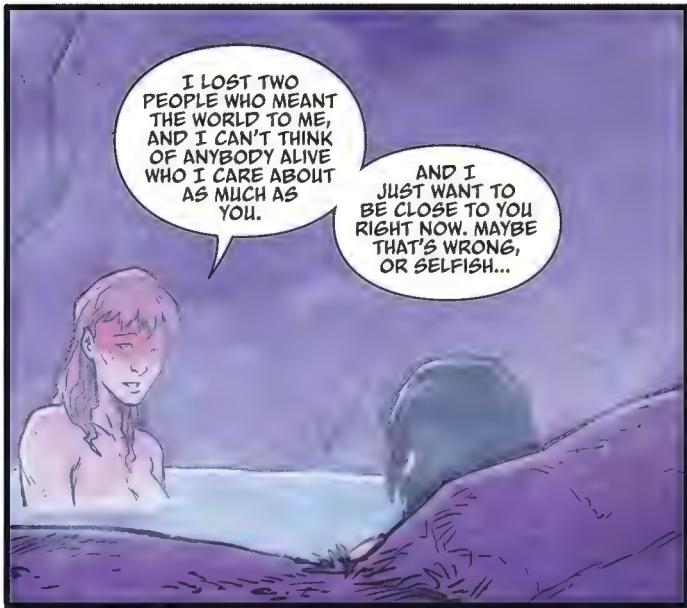


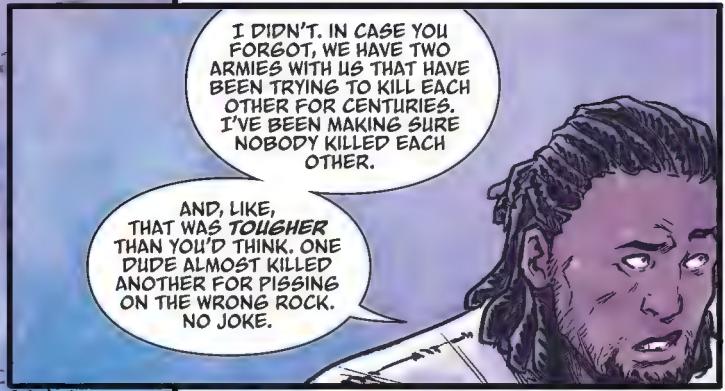
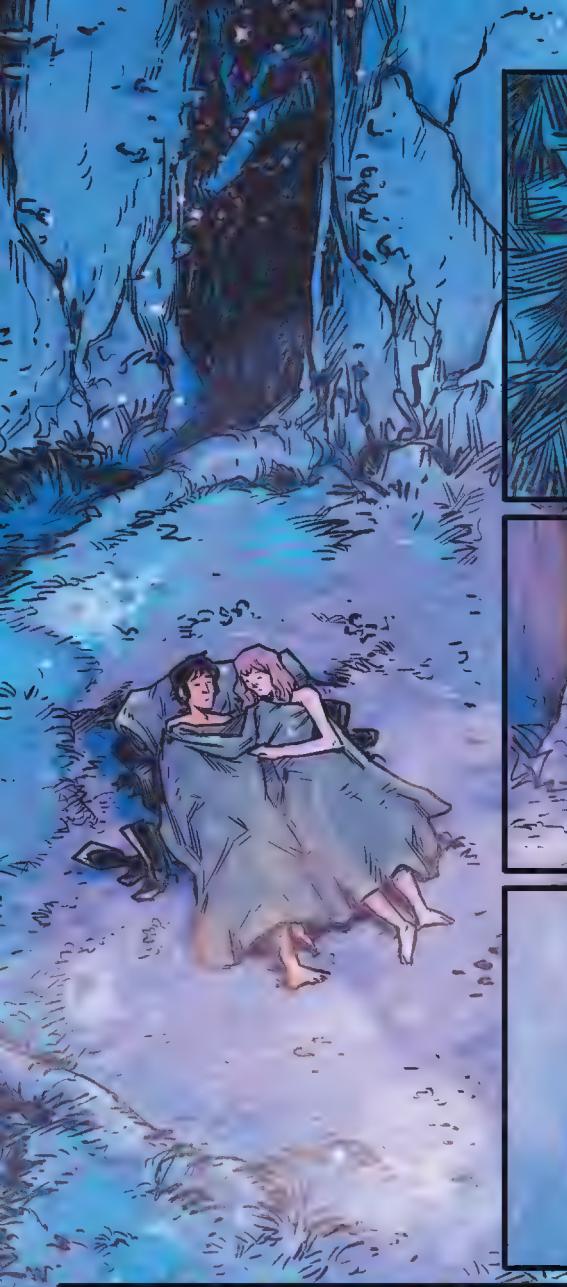


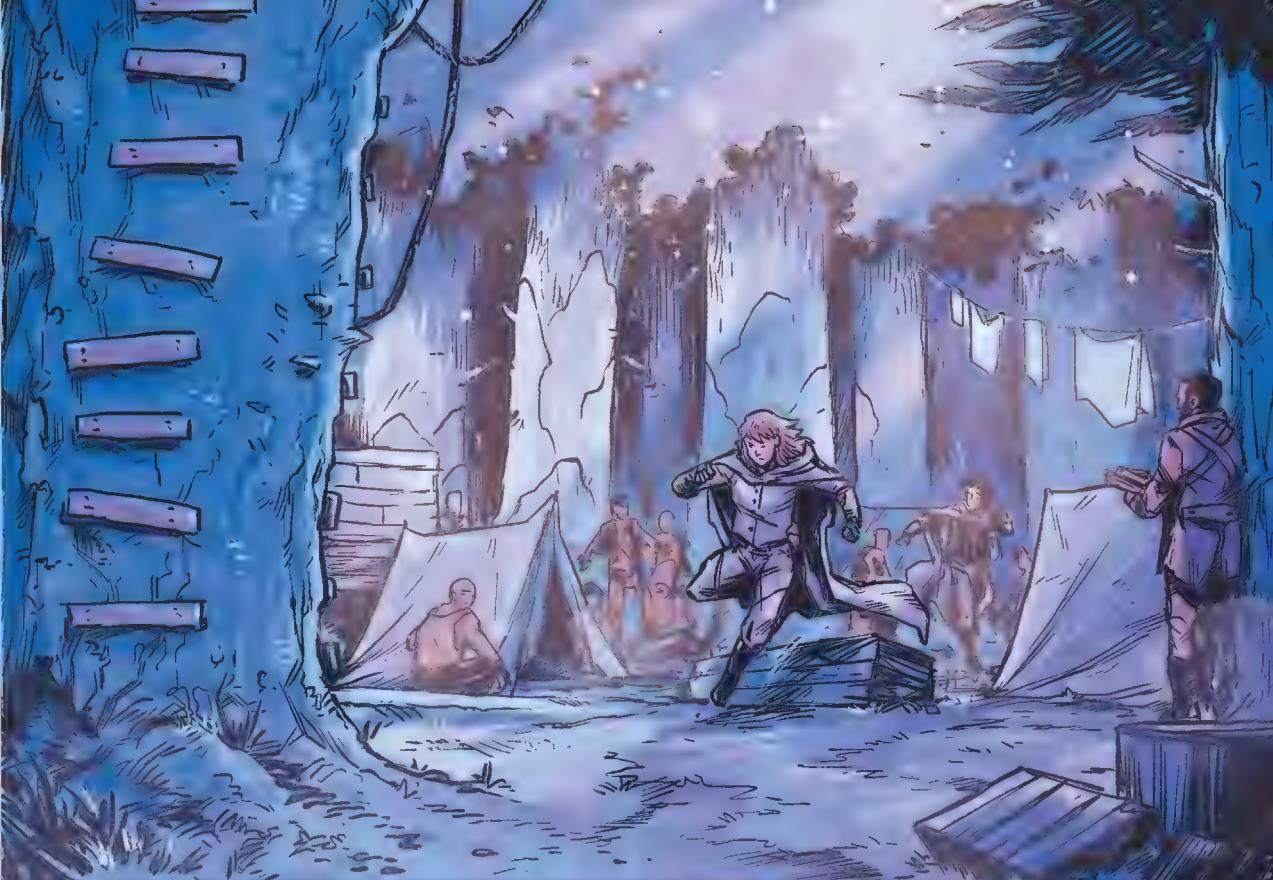






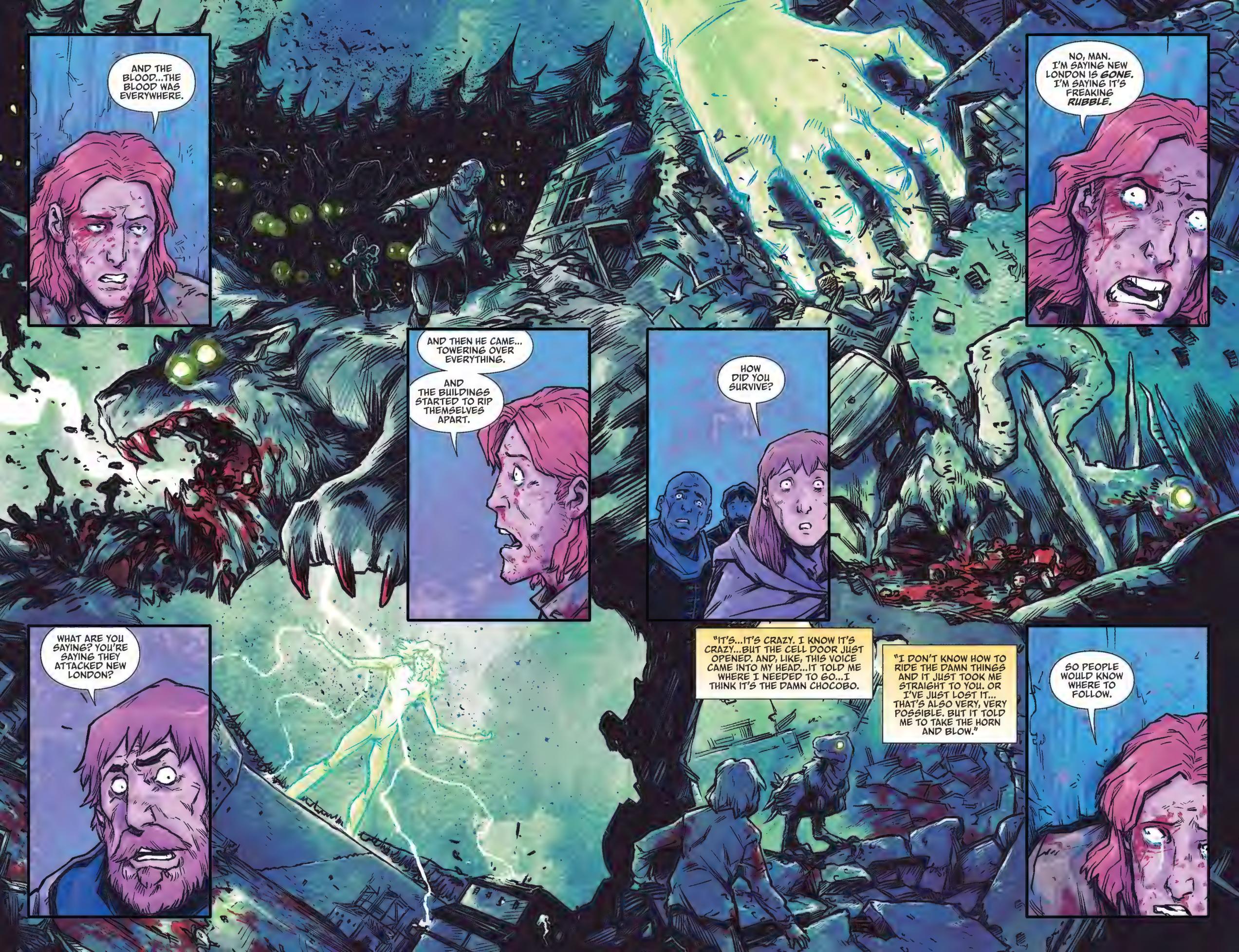












AND THE BLOOD...THE BLOOD WAS EVERYWHERE.

NO, MAN.  
I'M SAYING NEW  
LONDON IS GONE.  
I'M SAYING IT'S  
FREAKING  
RUBBLE.

AND THEN HE CAME...  
TOWERING OVER  
EVERYTHING.  
AND  
THE BUILDINGS  
STARTED TO RIP  
THEMSELVES  
APART.

HOW  
DID YOU  
SURVIVE?

WHAT ARE YOU  
SAYING? YOU'RE  
SAYING THEY  
ATTACKED NEW  
LONDON?

"IT'S...IT'S CRAZY. I KNOW IT'S  
CRAZY...BUT THE CELL DOOR JUST  
OPENED. AND, LIKE, THIS VOICE  
CAME INTO MY HEAD...IT TOLD ME  
WHERE I NEEDED TO GO...I  
THINK IT'S THE DAMN CHOCOBO.

"I DON'T KNOW HOW TO  
RIDE THE DAMN THINGS  
AND IT JUST TOOK ME  
STRAIGHT TO YOU. OR  
I'VE JUST LOST IT...  
THAT'S ALSO VERY, VERY  
POSSIBLE. BUT IT TOLD  
ME TO TAKE THE HORN  
AND BLOW."

SO PEOPLE  
WOULD KNOW  
WHERE TO  
FOLLOW.











I KNOW  
EXACTLY WHAT  
WE HAVE TO  
DO.

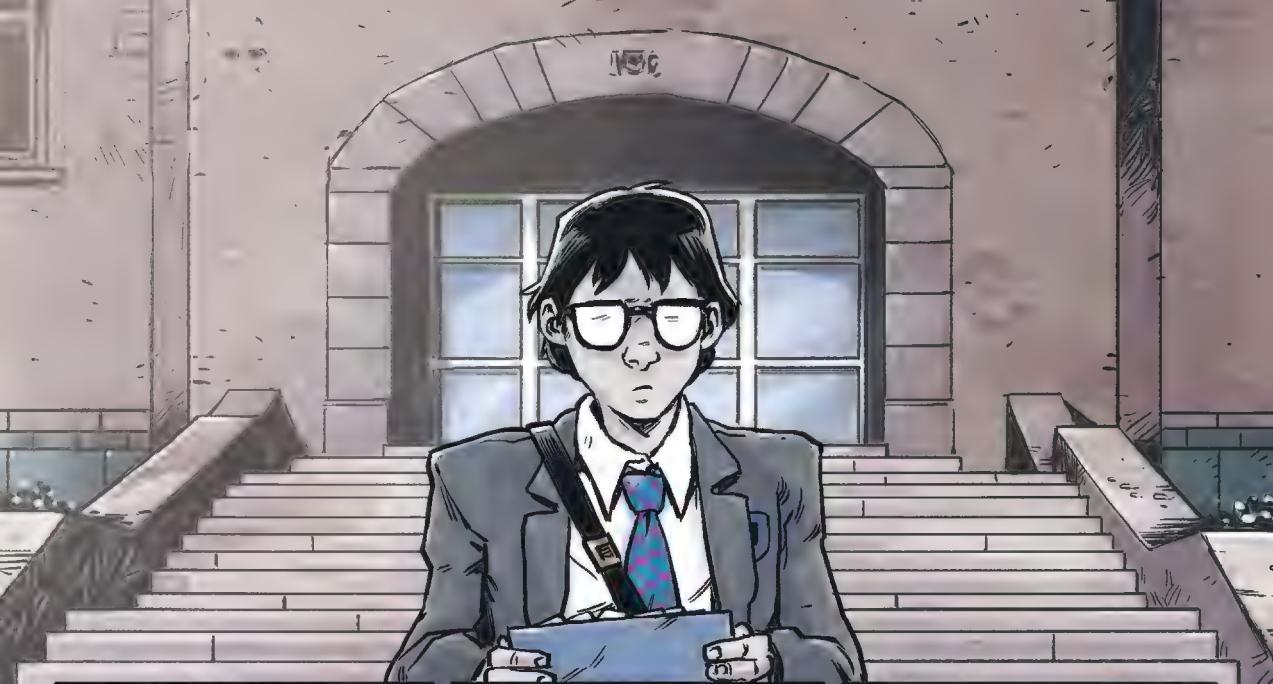
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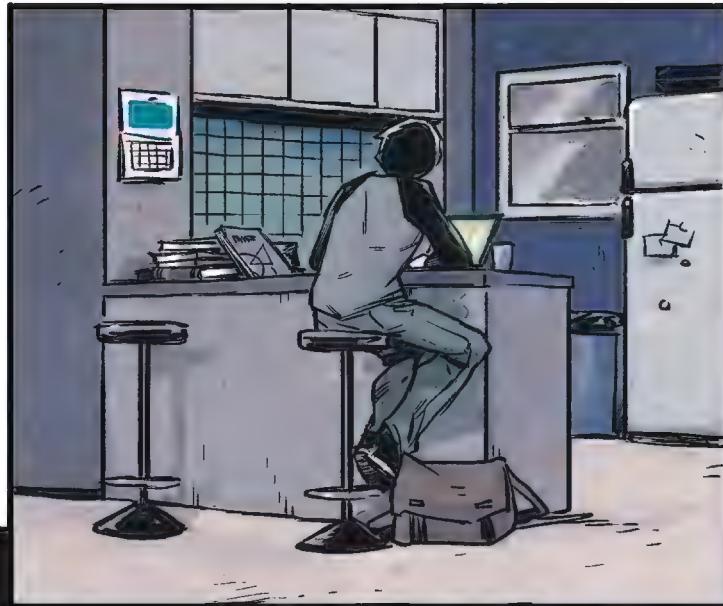


CHAPTER

# THIRTY-FOUR

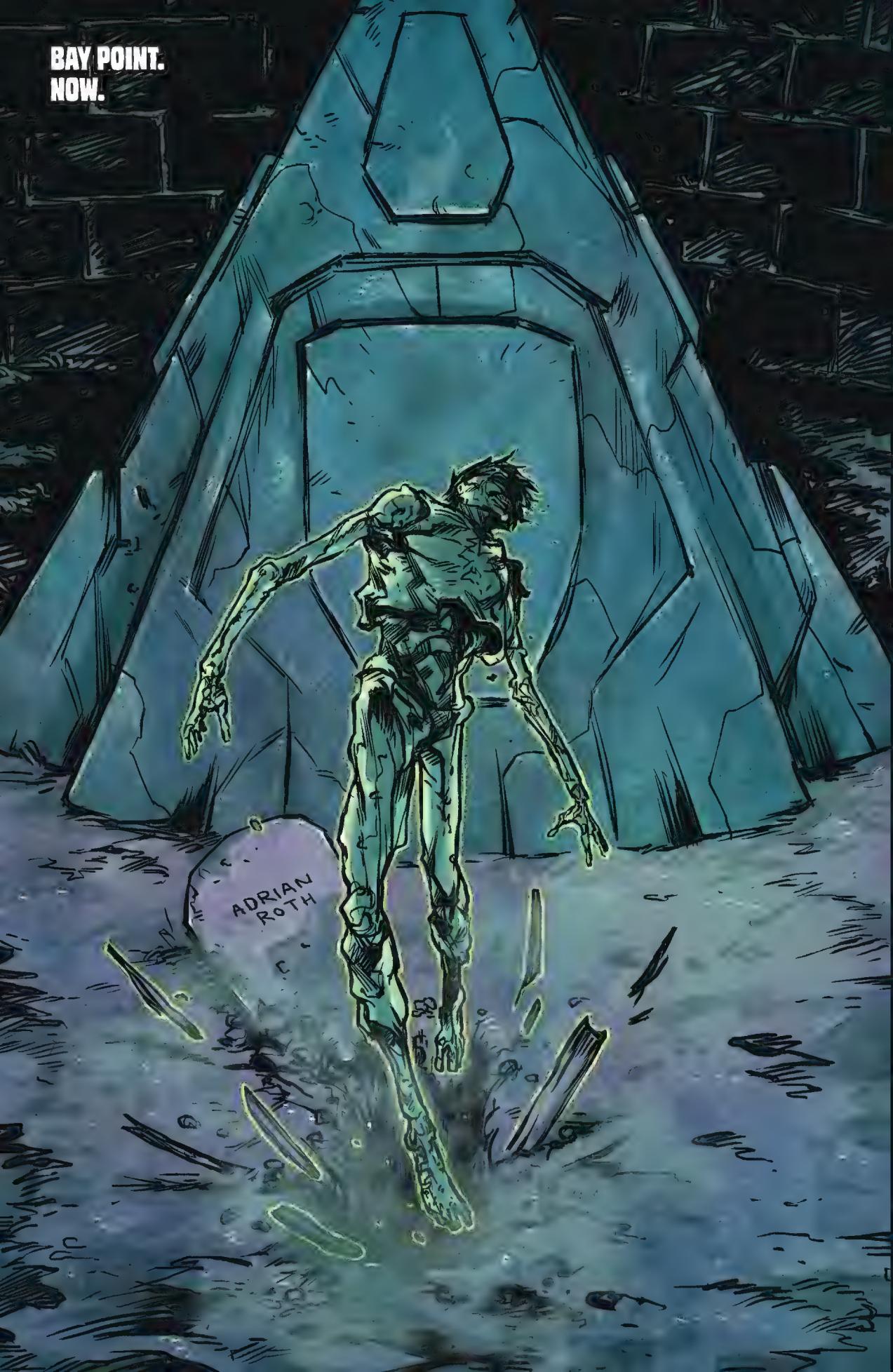




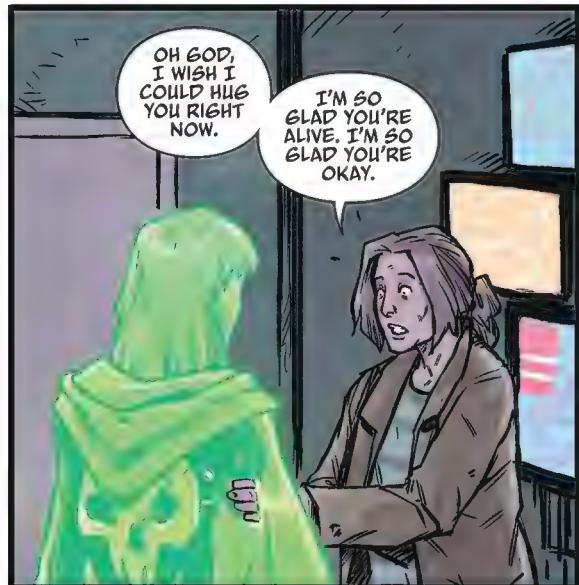


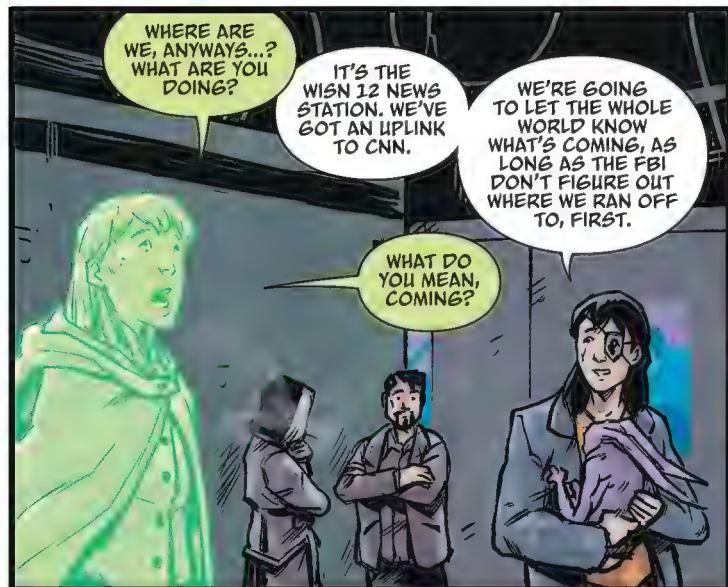


BAY POINT.  
NOW.







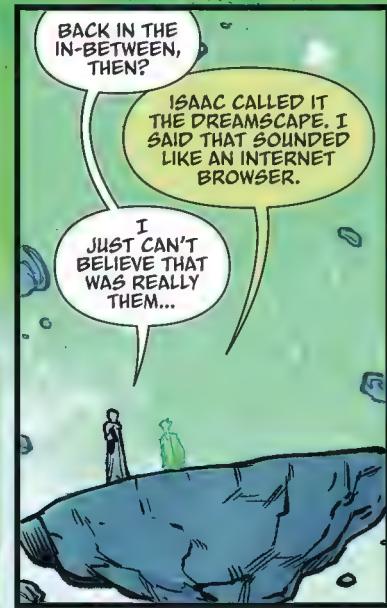




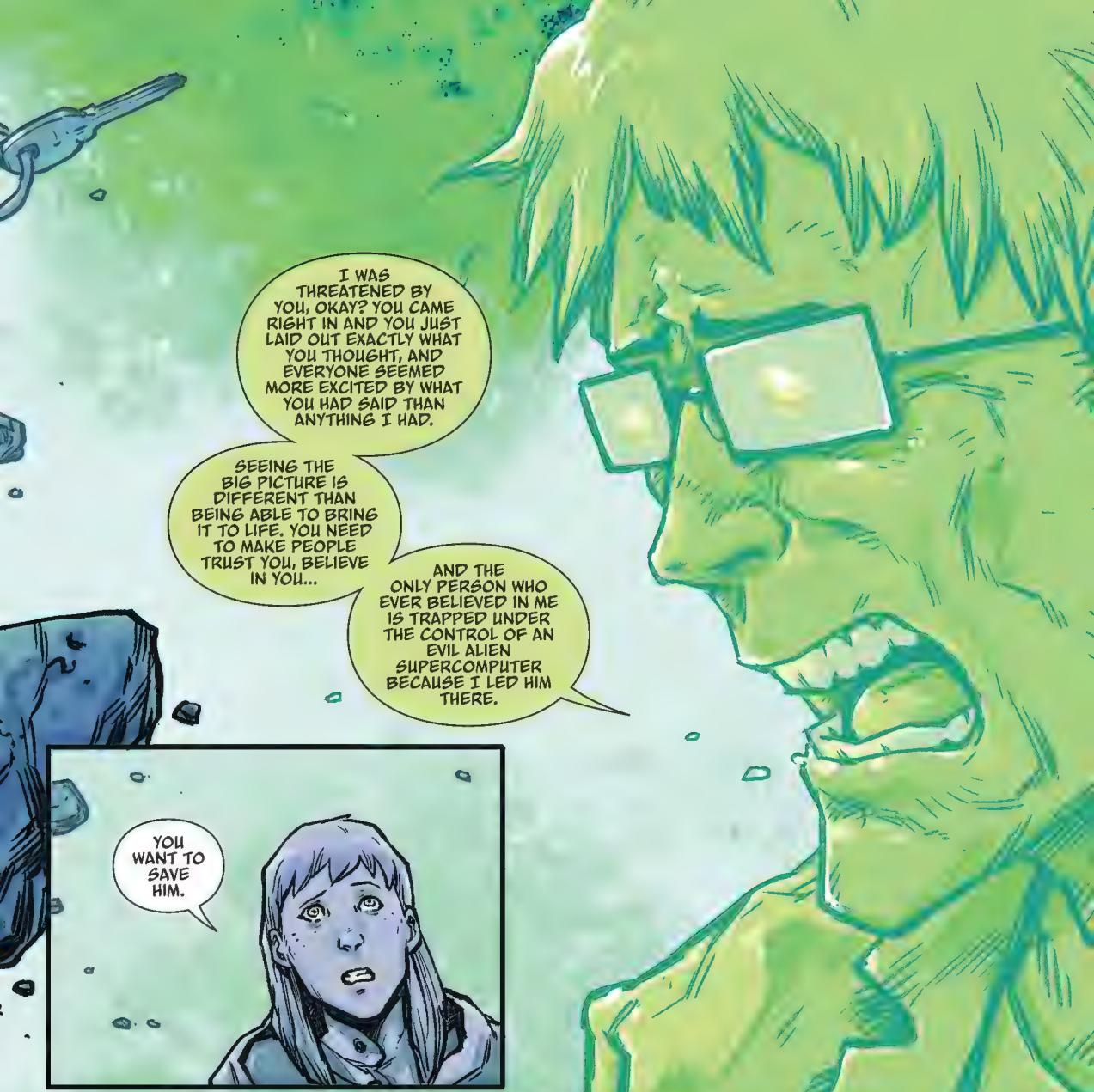
I'M SO PROUD OF  
YOU...JUST...JUST  
LOOK AT YOU  
NOW. YOU LOOK  
SO FREAKING  
COOL.

HERE I  
THOUGHT I'D  
RAISED A BIG  
DORK, JUST  
LIKE HER  
MOTHER.









I WAS THREATENED BY YOU, OKAY? YOU CAME RIGHT IN AND YOU JUST LAID OUT EXACTLY WHAT YOU THOUGHT, AND EVERYONE SEEMED MORE EXCITED BY WHAT YOU HAD SAID THAN ANYTHING I HAD.

SEEING THE BIG PICTURE IS DIFFERENT THAN BEING ABLE TO BRING IT TO LIFE. YOU NEED TO MAKE PEOPLE TRUST YOU, BELIEVE IN YOU....

AND THE ONLY PERSON WHO EVER BELIEVED IN ME IS TRAPPED UNDER THE CONTROL OF AN EVIL ALIEN SUPERCOMPUTER BECAUSE I LED HIM THERE.



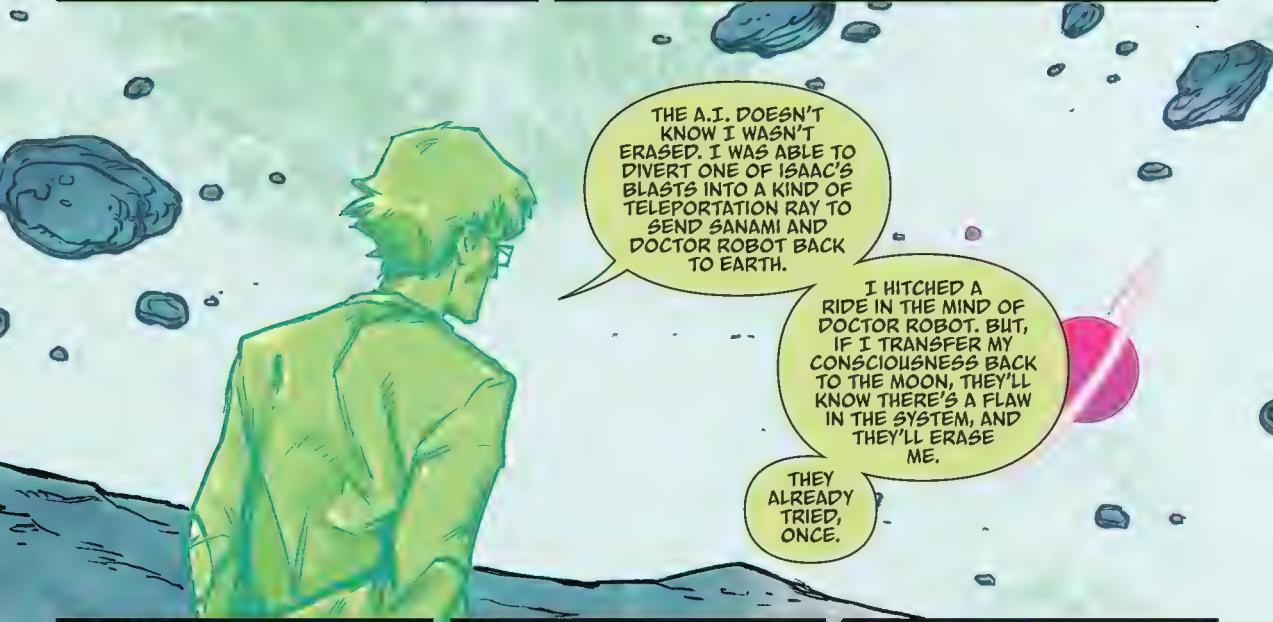
I WANT TO SAVE EVERYBODY.

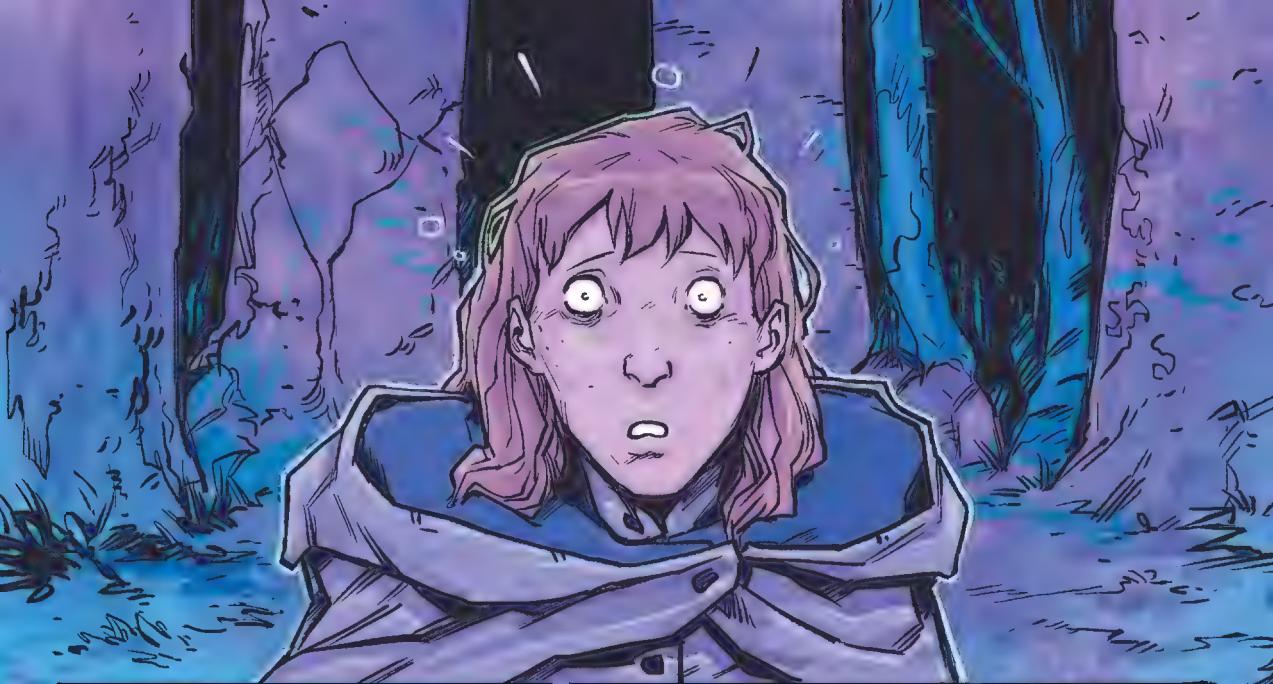
ALL I'VE EVER WANTED TO DO IS SOMETHING THAT REALLY MATTERS. SOMETHING THAT CHANGES PEOPLE'S LIVES.



THAT'S MY BIG SUPERVILLAIN ORIGIN STORY. I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO HELP PEOPLE.

AND I ALWAYS HATED THAT I COULDN'T DO THAT BY MYSELF.























"AND THIS PLAN OF  
YOURS...WILL THE  
JACOB GIRL SURVIVE  
THE PATH YOU'VE JUST  
SET HER ON?"

"ACTUALLY,  
MOTHER..."



"I SET HER ON  
THIS PATH TWO  
YEARS AGO."

"NOW SHE  
JUST NEEDS TO  
FOLLOW IT TO  
THE END."

TO BE CONTINUED...



CHAPTER

# THIRTY-FIVE



YOU  
WANT ME?  
ARE YOU  
SURE?

DUH,  
OF COURSE  
I'M SURE.

WHY  
WOULD  
YOU WANT  
ME?

ADRIAN ROTH  
SAYS WE'RE NOT SAFE  
HERE IN THE SCHOOL.  
HE SENT ME TO GET  
PEOPLE HE THINKS CAN  
SURVIVE OUT THERE, IN  
THE WOODS, BECAUSE  
THAT'S WHERE WE  
NEED TO GO.

I THINK  
YOU WERE THE  
"BIG, STRONG, SCARY  
JOCK, WHO ISN'T ALL  
THAT SCARY." THAT'S  
WHY YOU MADE THE  
LIST.

OH...  
ADRIAN.

LOOK,  
I DON'T  
KNOW...

LOOK, I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY  
WE'RE SUDDENLY TRAPPED IN  
OUTER-SPACE, BUT ADRIAN SAYS  
WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET TO THE  
BOTTOM OF THIS. AND YOU KNOW  
WHAT? I WANT TO GET TO THE  
BOTTOM OF THIS.

IT'S LIKE THE  
KINDS OF STORIES  
I'VE ONLY EVER READ  
ABOUT. BUT YOU AND  
I, WE CAN BE THE  
STARS, NOT JUST THE  
BACKGROUND  
PLAYERS.

IT'S SCARY AS HELL, BUT IT'S  
LIKE... I DON'T KNOW. IT'S LIKE  
WE COULD BE THE PEOPLE  
WE'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO  
BE OUT THERE.

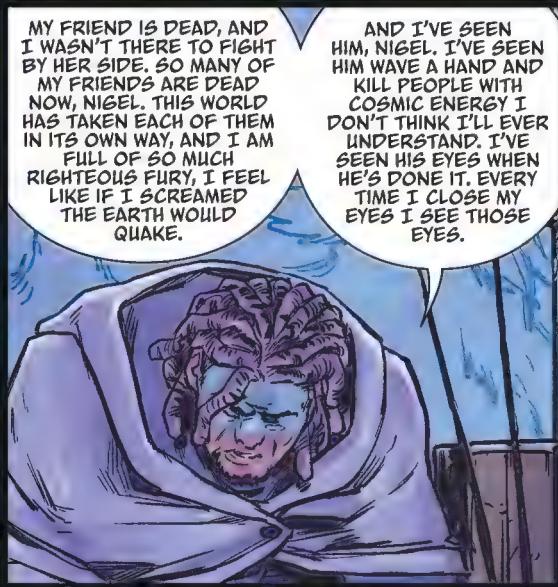
COME ON,  
BEN. DON'T YOU  
WANT TO FIND OUT  
WHO YOU MIGHT  
BECOME OUT HERE?  
DON'T YOU WANT TO  
TRY AND FIGURE  
THAT OUT  
TOGETHER?

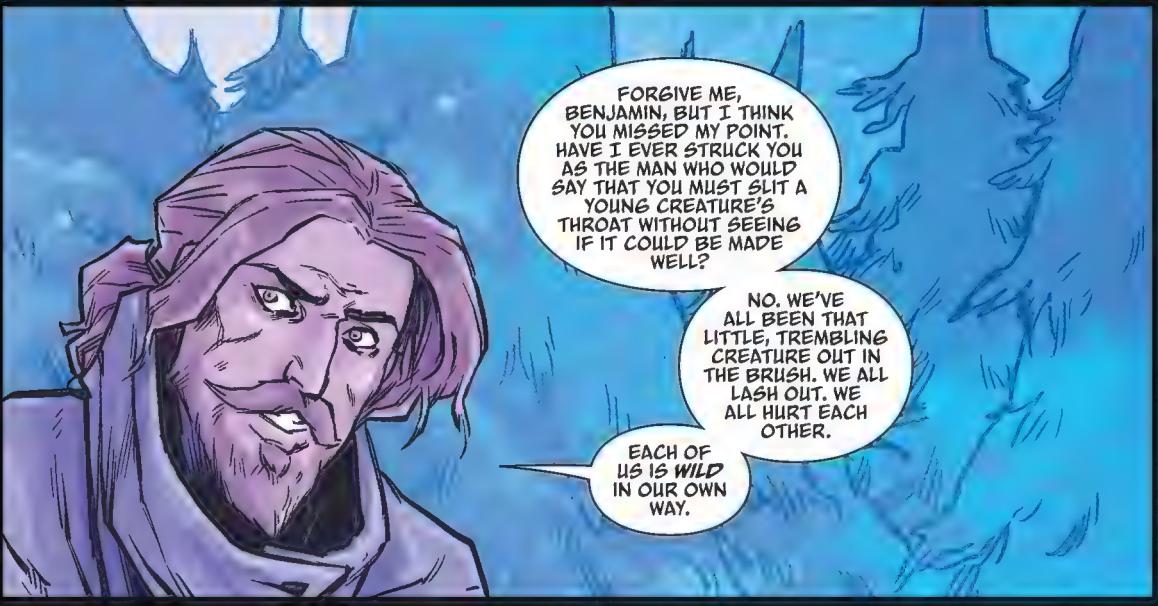




NOW.







FORGIVE ME, BENJAMIN, BUT I THINK YOU MISSED MY POINT. HAVE I EVER STRUCK YOU AS THE MAN WHO WOULD SAY THAT YOU MUST SLIT A YOUNG CREATURE'S THROAT WITHOUT SEEING IF IT COULD BE MADE WELL?

NO, WE'VE ALL BEEN THAT LITTLE, TREMBLING CREATURE OUT IN THE BRUSH. WE ALL LASH OUT. WE ALL HURT EACH OTHER.

EACH OF US IS WILD IN OUR OWN WAY.



BUT MY SISTER WAS HURT NOT BECAUSE I CARED, BUT BECAUSE I FORGOT THAT THE CREATURE WAS WILD. I HAD CREATED A WORLD IN MY HEAD, WITH MY LOVE, THAT MADE IT SEEM MORE DOCILE AND HARMLESS THAN IT PROVED TO BE.



IT WAS MY WILLING IGNORANCE OF WHAT IT COULD BE THAT SCARRED ME AND MY SISTER FOR LIFE.

I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER THAT.



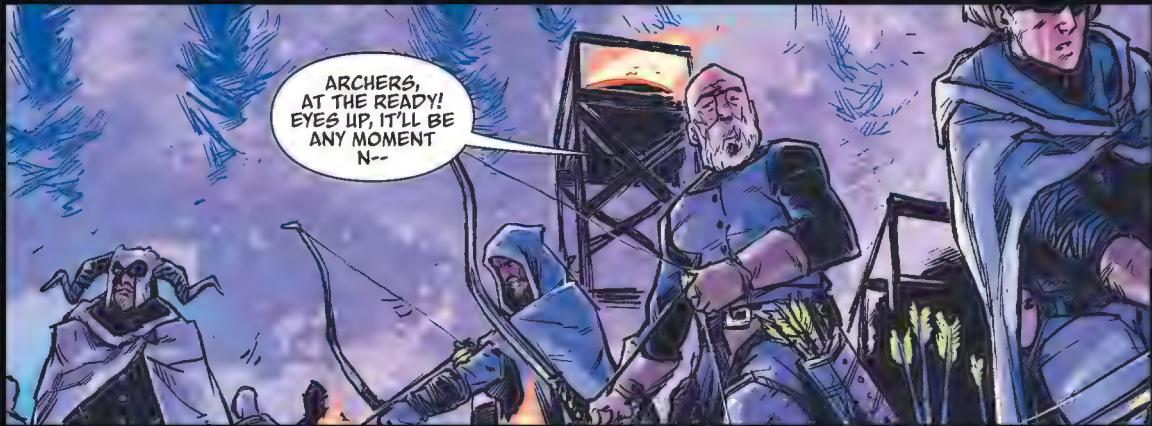
THE PEOPLE ARE ARMED AND READY?

YES. OUR YOUNGEST ARE IN THE CENTER RING, OUR BEST FIGHTERS ARE FORMING A BARRICADE.



GO TO THEM. TELL THEM TO CLOSE RANKS. THE AIR ASSAULT WILL COME FIRST. I NEED TO START MOVING.





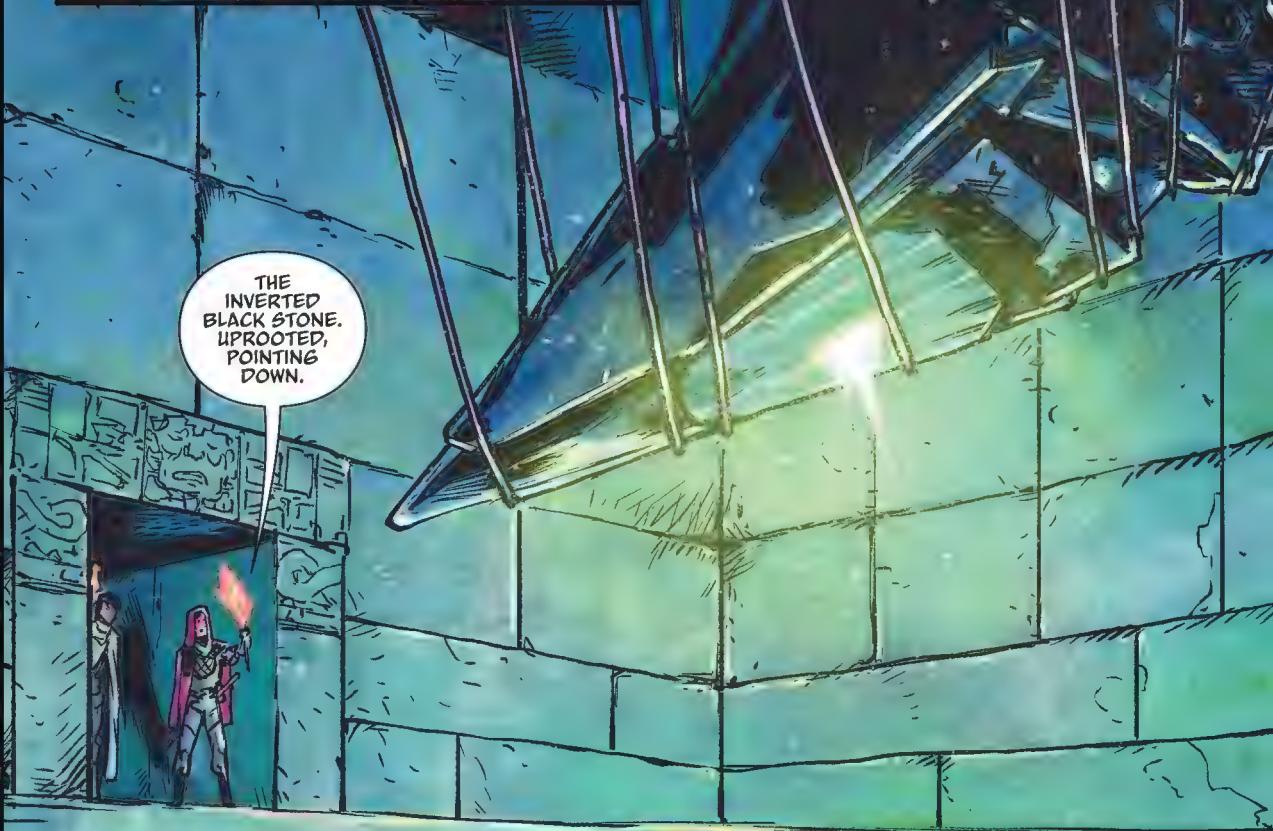








SO MANY DRAWN TO THIS PLACE, UNCERTAIN WHY IT MATTERED. NO SIGN OF WHY IT'S IMPORTANT, ASIDE FROM THE MOST OBVIOUS ONE.



THE INVERTED BLACK STONE, UPROOTED, POINTING DOWN.



WHAT WE DIDN'T REALIZE IS THAT THE MAYANS WHO WERE TAKEN HERE OVER SEVENTEEN-HUNDRED YEARS AGO HAD LEFT A MESSAGE.

A MESSAGE?

WE NEED TO GO DOWN, RIGHT INTO THE HEART OF THIS WORLD.



THAT'S WHERE WE CAN KILL IT.



IT'S OKAY. WE'LL SEE OUR BROTHERS SOON, OKAY? I JUST NEED YOU TO LISTEN...IF YOU RUN NOW, YOU CAN GET TO THE FOREST LINE. FIND SOMETHING TO HIDE BEHIND, OKAY?



ISAAC!













RAAAARRGGGHHHH!





I HAVE A  
MESSAGE  
FOR YOU,  
FROM ADRIAN  
ROTH.

"THIS  
IS REALLY  
GOING TO  
HURT."

TO BE CONCLUDED...



CHAPTER

# THIRTY-SIX



I REMEMBER WALKING THROUGH THE DOORS FOR THE FIRST TIME. I WAS SO DAMN SCARED.

IT WASN'T THAT I DIDN'T KNOW ANYBODY. I HAD CHOSEN CLASSES WITH MY BEST FRIENDS A FEW MONTHS EARLIER. IT WAS SOMETHING BIGGER THAN THAT.

I KNEW I WAS GOING TO WALK IN THAT BUILDING ONE PERSON, AND WALK OUT ANOTHER, AND I DIDN'T KNOW WHO THAT PERSON WAS GOING TO BE.

I WAS AFRAID OF HER. THAT UNKNOWN SANAMI.

ARE YOU STILL AFRAID?

HAH. MY FACE IS BEING BROADCAST ALL OVER THE COUNTRY SAYING ALIENS EXIST AND THEY MIGHT BE COMING TO INVADE AND DESTROY THE EARTH. OF COURSE I'M AFRAID.

YOU KNOW, THAT FEELING NEVER REALLY GOES AWAY. YOU FORGET IT SOMETIMES, BUT IT NEVER GOES AWAY.

WE THINK OF THINGS IN BEGINNINGS AND ENDINGS, BUT THE TRUTH IS THAT WE JUST KEEP GOING, AND WE NEVER REALLY KNOW WHAT PERSON WE'LL BE TOMORROW.

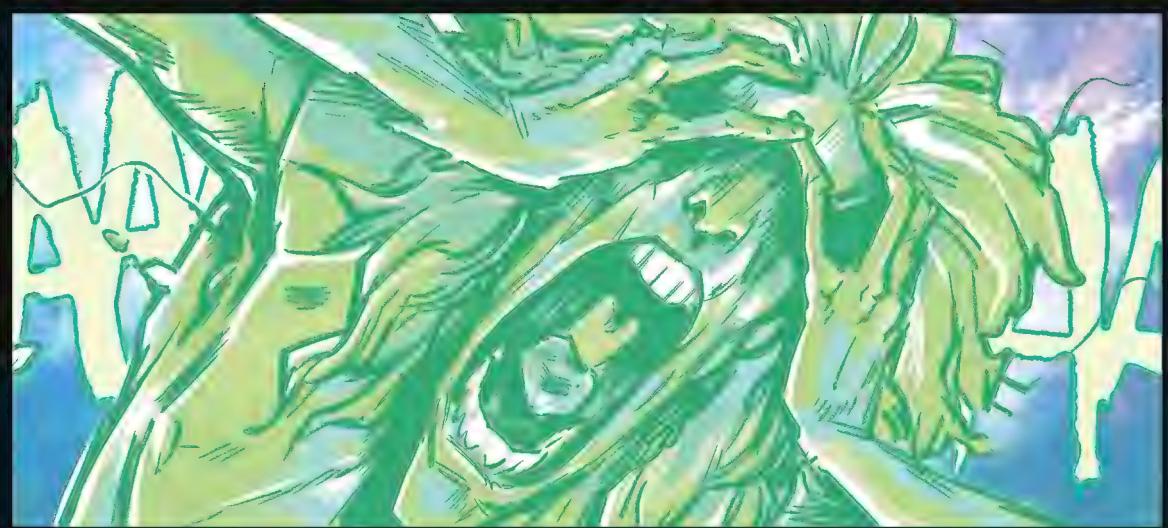
NOTHING REALLY ENDS.

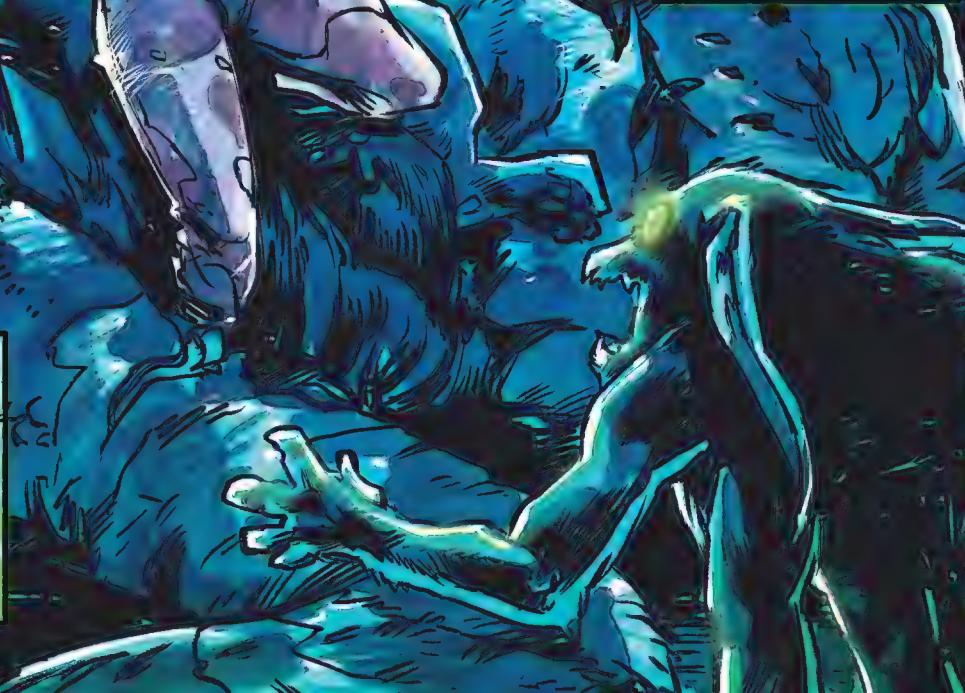
NOT REALLY.

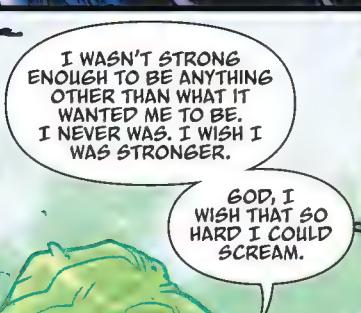
UNTIL IT DOES.

YEAH... UNTIL IT DOES.

















BUT  
YOU MADE  
A MISTAKE. YOU  
LET TWO OF HER  
FRIENDS IMPRINT  
THEIR MINDS ON  
YOUR ENTIRE  
COMPUTER  
NETWORK.

THAT WAS  
PRETTY DUMB  
OF YOU.

IMPOSSIBLE...

I'VE BEEN  
REWRITING YOUR  
BASE CODING FOR  
WEEKS. YOU'RE  
NOT IN CONTROL  
OF THIS SYSTEM  
ANYMORE.

WE  
ARE.









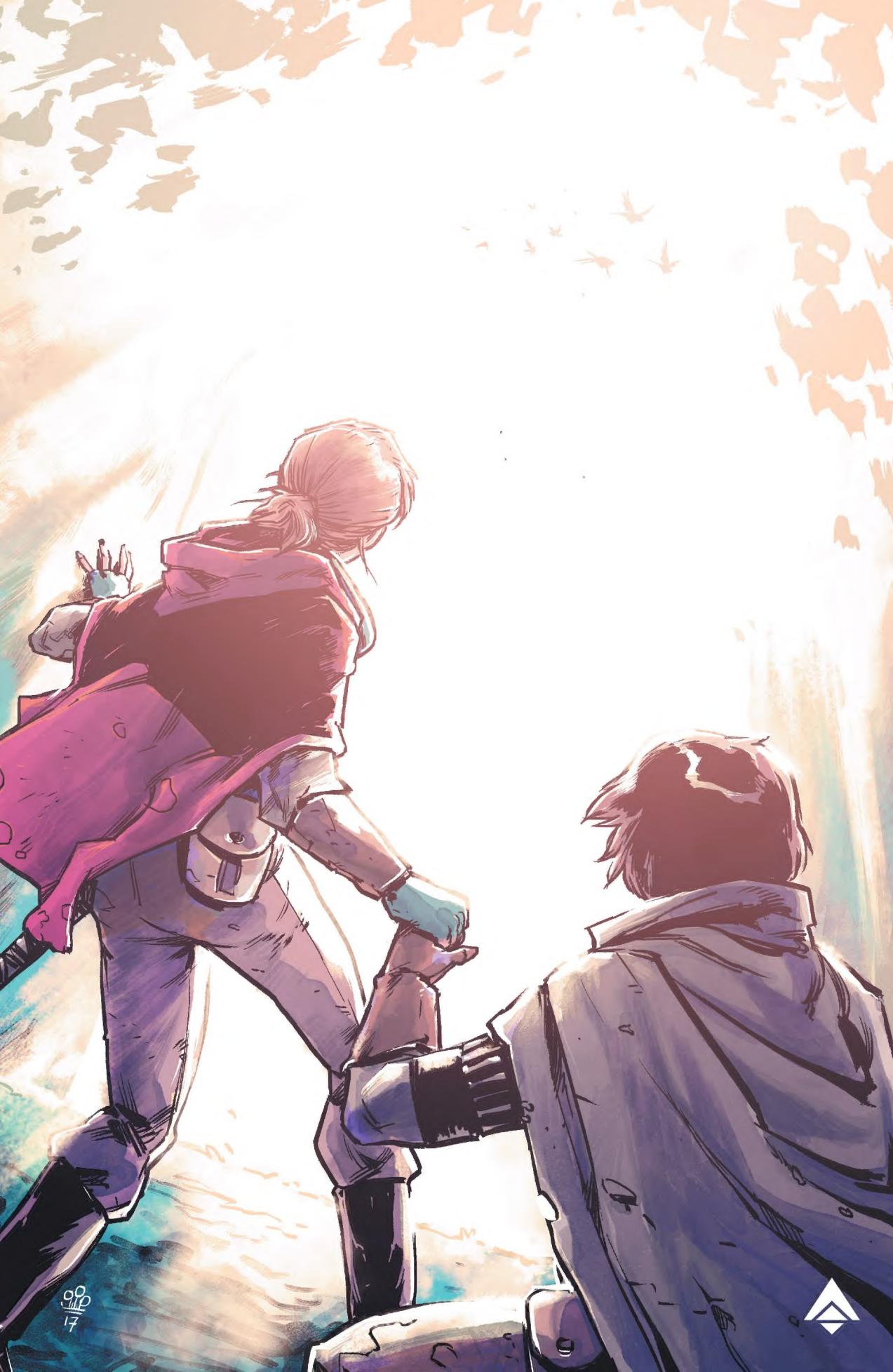












# GET TO KNOW **BOOM! STUDIOS**

## ARUNE SINGH

VICE PRESIDENT, MARKETING



**Currently Reading:** *How We Did It: The Subban Plan for Success in Hockey, School and Life* by Karl Subban

**Favorite Item on Desk:** The hockey puck from the first Montreal Canadiens game that my wife Michelle & I saw together in Montreal.

**Food I'd Wrestle a Bear For:** Schwartz's Smoked Meat. I rarely eat meat, but these sandwiches from the iconic Montreal restaurant are undeniable.

**If I Won the Lottery I'd Spend the Money On:** Buying the Montreal Canadiens after I followed John Mayer on tour for a year on a brand new Harley Davidson Street 750.

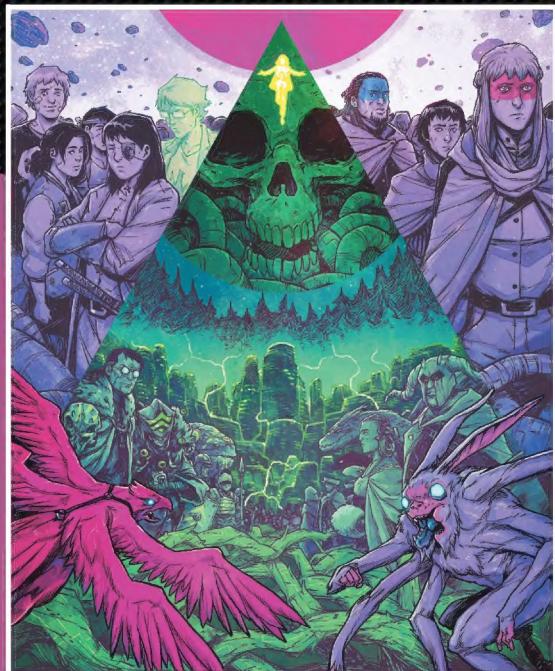
**Hometown:** The 6ix AKA T-Dot AKA Toronto, Ontario, Canada

## WE'RE OUT OF THE WOODS™

On my hard drive, there's a file named *The Woods*, created on June 10, 2012. There are only a few lines of text in it, but this is how it starts. "Full midwestern high school is beamed to planet on the other end of the universe. Wooded planet. Lotsa problems and stuff." It's followed by a few brief, generic descriptors that would ultimately become the core cast of *The Woods*: Adrian, Karen, Isaac, Ben, Sanami, and Calder.

It would be another year and a half before my incredible partner Michael Dialynas would bring those characters to life in a few sketches that immediately captured the heart of the series. And a bit longer before the first issue hit the stands. Back then, I only had a few comic credits to my name. I was still working at a small advertising firm in New York City, moonlighting on a few small co-written projects for big publishers, unsure what my next steps would be. I still remember, late one night, pacing in my Manhattan apartment on the phone with my friend and mentor, Scott Snyder, when he asked me the most important question of my young career. "If you could only write one comic book for the rest of your life, what would that comic book be?" The answer wasn't meant to be my favorite superhero, but rather, what kind of series would encapsulate all my interests, all the core themes I wanted to play with, all the settings and genres I wanted to explore...

The question set my brain on fire. But a few months later, one afternoon, I opened a document and started to write a rough sentence about a high school transported into an alien forest, and the kids trying to figure out how



Issues #33-35 Connecting Covers  
Michael Dialynas

to survive and how to get home. Ultimately, *The Woods* is a story about growing up (aren't all stories about teenagers?), but more specifically, it's the story of my life, the encapsulation of the first five years of my career, and all my interests and follies. It ends with an understanding that the process of growing up never really ends, it just changes.

By putting the last words of this series to the page earlier today, one part of my life is over. I'm out of the Woods. But that just means the next part of my life is ready to begin. And it means that it's time for me to ask myself the question all over again, and see what strange sentence might fall out and shape the next era of my life. Until then, my love goes to my co-creator, Michael, and my incredible editors, Eric Harburn and Jasmine Amiri. And to each and every one of you who came to the other end of the universe to see some "problems and stuff" unfold.

James Tynion IV  
2017, NYC

Every hundred years, the Black City has selected a remote population from Earth and transported them to the woods. These civilizations have not always lived in harmony...but now, they must either fight in unison to turn their weapons against the technology that brought them here in the first place, or meet total elimination in the face of Isaac's unworldly power. Will this unification of factions be enough or are they all doomed?

Written by **James Tynion IV** (*Detective Comics, Memetic*) and illustrated by **Michael Dialynas** (*Gotham Academy, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*), **"The Final War"** collects the critically acclaimed eighth arc of the best-selling series.

THIS IS IT, THE FINAL CHAPTERS  
AFTER 3 YEARS WE ARE FINALLY OUT OF THE WOODS  
I CANT WAIT

J. EDWARDS (BOOM STUDIOS)

